

# BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

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## ABOUT IRRIGATION.

An Eastern Man's Opinion of the Possibilities for Central and Western Kansas.



N A late financial Journal, "American Investments" of a recent issue is found an interview with Hon. Jas. S. Sherman, of Utica, who had just returned from a trip through western Kansas in the interest of his clients. Mr. Sherman has for a number of years represented the Oneida (N. Y.) district in Congress, and is well known as a prominent man in the state of New York.

In response to the question as to what was the condition in which he found Western and Central Kansas, Mr. Sherman said:

"The conditions are all favorable to plant growth, and the soil is exceedingly productive, the only requisite being a sufficient supply of water at the proper time, when this country would be the finest agricultural district in the world. The climate is mild, and the native grasses are very nutritious, and I was very much impressed with the adaptability of these prairies for the growing of cattle. In my travels I saw large numbers of cattle feeding on the prairie grasses and apparently fit for market."

"The method of irrigation is somewhat novel. Instead of taking the water from rivers and large reservoirs, and distributing through long canals, the new way is simply pumping the water up from the underground stratum of water bearing sand. On the river bottom land this sand-water stratum is found at a depth of from six to ten feet, and here irrigation is most successful and most cheaply prosecuted. An important feature of this method of irrigation is the comparatively small expense required to install a complete working plant. Under the canal system several hundred thousand dollars might be required to be expended before any results could be had, and before the scheme could be demonstrated to be a success. And then the high water in the river might wash out the dams and flood gates, and prevent any successful cultivation for that season. The individual pump plant is always under the control of the owner, and affords the most certain results. The supply of water is inexhaustible and always at command. Undoubtedly a very large portion of this western section of Kansas is underlaid with this water-bearing sand stratum. But outside of the valleys the greater depth to the water increases the expense, and it is only the river bottom lands that are now being irrigated in this manner."

"The alfalfa plant is peculiarly adapted to this Western country. It is perennial, and when it gets root no expense of cultivation, or further expense in seeding is required. The company has only the expense of harvesting, and this may be done away with, as the alfalfa is often fed growing in the fields, the cattle doing the harvesting. I am told by a Kansas farmer who has spent several years in Arizona as the manager of a cattle company, that cattle fed on growing alfalfa will gain an average of four pounds a day. The gain of cattle being fed on corn meal is not more than five pounds per day. The great expense in feeding corn, and the light expense in feeding alfalfa must show a very large profit from growing alfalfa used in this manner."

### Pay Your Tax.

By order of County Commissioners the delinquent tax of 1893, 1894, & 1895 have been placed in the hands of the sheriff for collection. If you do not hold a receipt for those three years you had better call and settle, as a visit from the sheriff may be expensive.

We want to close out our stock of stoves, and are offering them at actual cost to us. You cannot afford to let this opportunity pass to get a good stove at cost. This is no catch advertisement, but we mean business.

Great Bend Implement Co.

Washington's birthday the 22d.

Saint Valentine's day tomorrow, the 14th.

The evening mail from the east does not get in now until 7:22.

Central draught Banquet Lamps at Simpson & Co's. from \$2.50 to \$5. 4t

The business man who has faith in printer's ink will never go into bankruptcy.

See those nickle lamps at Simpson & Co's., central draught, for \$2 and \$2.15—a snap. 4t

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Jones, of the third ward, Friday.

Would like to hear from Prof. Daum on the "peach bud" question since the blizzard.

School Books at Chicago list prices; also, the new Excelsior Readers, at Simpson & Co's. 4t

Try the DEMOCRAT a year for a dollar, six months for 50 cents, or three months for 25 cents.

George Moses and County Clerk Fitts are each building new irrigation ponds, in the west part of town.

Prescriptions carefully compounded, and the best and purest of drugs sold by Simpson & Co. 4t

The city council cut \$14 a month off the price paid for the street lights, at its meeting the first of the month.

Italy and Greenland met in Kansas last week. The ground hog's six weeks of winter appear to have commenced.

Wall Paper to be sold at and below cost—to reduce the stock—at Simpson & Co's. See it before buying. 4t

The Santa Fe is getting some unenviable compliments on the way it runs its mail trains into Great Bend these days.

The republican state convention to select delegates at large to the national convention will be held at Wichita March 10th.

You can subscribe for any prominent paper or magazine, at the postoffice, and save the cost of stamps, money order etc.

There is joy in Heaven over the sinner who repents, even though he may have been a member of the church for a number of years.

Jim Shrouf returned from a two weeks visit to a Kansas City Keeley institute. He speaks in high terms of the good work done there.

Yesterday, the 12th, was celebrated in the city schools by elaborate programs concerning Abraham Lincoln. It was his birthday anniversary.

Deputy United States Marshall W. G. Neely was in the city Saturday serving subpoenas on witnesses in the Frey and Fosburg counterfeiting case.

The ice man smileth with a grin as broad as a prairie quarter section, and the coal man saith, behold, how good it is for the ground hog to see his shadow.

Hornbeck, at the old Beye stand has the best grades of apples and sell at the lowest market prices. See him before buying. Also fresh cider and cider vinegar always on hand.

"Have you 'A Heart that Aches'?" asked a third ward young lady of one of our handsome young clerks in a store dealing in sheet music. "No," replied Ed, "but I have a confounded tooth that does."

When thinking of laying in your supply of spring seeds remember that the Great Bend Implement Co. will have a complete stock of the FRESHEST seeds, from the best houses, for sale at hard times prices. 4t

Jim Clayton was up from Topeka the first of the week for a couple of days. Jim says that politics are beginning to hold the boards pretty successfully in Topeka now—but we don't know where he is "at" on the silver question.

County Superintendent Frank McKinney has purchased, as agent, libraries for the following school districts: Nos. 8, 25, 29, 30, 31, 33, 40 and 70. The libraries consist of 40 volumes of well selected reading matter, and cost the districts \$10 and \$12.50, according to binding of the books.

## A PUZZLED GERMAN.

A Good Story, That May Carry a Moral To Some of Our Readers



GOOD story is told that illustrates some absurdities to which a "liberal construction" of scriptural passages generally leads.

The story is told of a puzzled dutchman who attended services held by a progressive sect in a western state.

One who did not believe in emersion for baptism was holding a protracted meeting, and one night he preached on the subject of baptism. In the course of his remarks he said:

Some believe it necessary to go into the water and come out of it to be baptised. But this he claimed a falacy, for the preposition INTO of the scriptures should be rendered differently, as it does not mean "into" at all times. Moses, he said, we are told went up into a mountain, etc. Now we do not suppose he went into the mountain, but upon it. So with going down into the water; it means simply going down to or near the water, and being baptised in the ordinary way, by sprinkling. He carried out this idea fully, and in due season and style closed his discourse, when an invitation was given to anyone who felt so disposed to rise and express his thoughts. Quite a lot of the brethren arose and said they were glad they had been present on this occasion, that they were well pleased with the sermon they had just heard, and felt their souls greatly blessed.

Finally a corpulent gentleman of Teutonic extraction, a stranger to all, arose and broke a silence that was almost painful, as follows:

"Mr. Brecher, I ish so glat I vas here tonight some more, for I had explained to my mint somedings vat I nefer could believe before. I ish glad INTO dond mean into at all, but yust close py or near to, for now I can believe many things vat I could not before all the while. We read, Mr. Brecher, dat Taniel vas cast INTO de den of lions, und came out alive! Now, I never could understand dot, for de wilt peasts would eat him up right off; but now I ish very clear to my mint. He vas shust close py or near to, und did not get INTO de den at all. Oh, I ish so glat I vas here tonight."

"Und we read dot de Hebrew shildren vas cast into de firish furnace, and dat alwash look't like a peeg story, too, for I dinks da would have been purnt up; but ish all blain to my mint now, for dey were shust close py or near to de furnace. Oh, I vas so glat I vas here tonight."

"An den, Mr. Brecher, it ish said dat Jonah vas cast into de walesh pelley. Now I never could understand dat; put it ish blain to my mint now, he vas not taken INTO de walesh pelley at all, but shust shumpt on his pack und rote ashore. Oh, I vas so glat I vas here tonight."

"And now, Mister Brecher, if you shust explain two more passages of scripture, I shall pe, O, so happy I vas here tonight! One of dem ish where it saysh de wicked shall be cast into a lake dot burns mit fire ant primstone alwash. Mister Brecher, shall I be cast INTO dat lake if I am vicked, or shust close py or near enough to be comfortable? I hope you vill say I vill be cast shust by, a good vay off, and I vill be so glat I vas here tonight! De oder passage is dat vich says pleased is dey who obey these commandments, dat dey may have a right to de tree of life, und enter in trough de gates INTO de city. Oh, tell mee dot I shall get into de city, and not closer py oder near to, shust near enough to see dot myself was lost, and I shall pe so glat I vas here tonight."

The Great Bend Foundry and Machine Co. have leased their machine shop to H. F. Meyers. He will do all kinds of machine work promptly and in a workman like manner; also Blacksmithing in all its branches; will also do all kinds of Bicycle repairing and buy and sell Bicycles and Trimmings. Give me a call, I will treat you right. 3t

Cal Keenan and wife rejoice over the arrival of a fine baby girl, last week.

Mrs. N. J. Bitner has gone to Walton on a four weeks visit to her daughter, Lizzie Swartz.

Word and Works and Hick's Almanac for 1896 and the DEMOCRAT for one year for \$2.00.

The protracted meetings that Rev. Schnacke has been conducting south of the river closed last week.

Frank Kramer was taking care of the city a few days the first of the week, while Marshall Ewalt was absent.

Wonder why Ed W. Moses don't have the trees cut down from around his house, "so he could get a little sun."

The band of this city talks of giving a dance at the A. O. U. W. hall on the night of the 22nd—Washington's birthday.

J. P. Frey and Marshall Fosburg were cleared of the charge of counterfeiting, at their examination held in Dodge City last Monday.

Some of the business men of Claflin have formed a mining pool, and will "stake" a few men in the Cripple Creek regions. We hope they will strike it rich.

The Epworth League will give a Martha Washington reception the 21. Everyone is cordially invited. For full particulars see the DEMOCRAT next week.

The latest version of an old poem runs: "Mary had a little mule, and it followed her to schule, and the teacher, like a fule stepped up behind the mule and bit him with a rule, and there was no skule."

Mrs. D. Matthewson and youngest son, Russell, of near the college, left last week for a three months' visit in Kansas City and Omaha. Russell has been in poor health the past few months and will take medical treatment while away.

At the examination of railway mail clerks for the month of January, we note that Arch Caraway succeeded in heading the list of those passing as perfect, his record being 100 per cent, on Kansas routes. Another feather in the hat of a Great Bend boy.

A member of the law and order league was heard to say recently that "joints in Great Bend can be closed as easy as rolling off a log." Roll off, mister; you're not "on." Great Bend always has had 'em, and always will, so long as the present unpopular laws are on the statute books.

It is reported that Col. Joe Borders, having retired from the newspaper business, is to start a grocery business in Independence, Mo. Joe will doubtless rake in more of the filthy lucre dealing out sugar over the counters for the man who is furnishing the capital than he did dispensing taffy for Mayor Davis' gubernatorial boom. Another case of one man furnishing the money and the other the experience.

A question was asked of a young scholar in a public school last week, "What is Leap Year and what is it for?" Neither the young student nor any of his mates could answer the question. The school marm told them they could study it over and answer it the next day, and when the question was put the following day, a young philosopher answered, "Leap Year is a year set apart to give old maids and cranky old school marms a chance to get married."

A movement is on foot to have a big coursing meeting held in Great Bend this fall. The gentlemen interested in this sport, who have been here at former meetings, are all anxious to work their dogs on the Cheyenne bottoms again. All it will need for Great Bend to get the meeting—and possibly two of them—this year, is for our citizens to put up a purse, say \$200 or \$300. Several gentlemen have already signified a willingness to chip in liberally. The local coursing men will get around soon and find out just what can be done. Give them the right kind of encouragement—it will repay you in the long run.

Everything kept in a first class drug store, at the lowest living prices. Come and see us. Simpson & Co. 4t

## PERSONAL POINTS.



COL. GREENE of the Grand Central, was laid up a few days recently with malaria.

—Frank Feeder came up from Ellinwood Saturday, to see Billy—and Si.

—Jacob Gustin and George Peck of the north territory were in town Saturday.

—Pension Agent Sloan was in the city last week.

—W. H. Grant, of Comanche, was in the city Monday.

—O. B. Looney and wife were Claflin visitors last week.

—W. F. Putnam returned from McCracken, Saturday.

—Ed F. Winterburg came home from Colorado, last week.

—Miss Lizzie Wildgen was over from Hoisington, Sunday.

—Dave Rodeck and Tom Hart Sundayed in Great Bend.

—Billie Dee was down from Olmitz the last of the week.

—W. I. Mendenhall is home for a few weeks on a lay off.

—O. J. Richards is assisting in the F. O. a few days this week.

—Alex McTaggart was down from Pawnee Rock Saturday.

—Mrs. Barber, of Larned, was a guest of Add. Purcell, last Friday.

—Mrs. Foster Jordan is visiting a daughter who is ill, in Dodge City.

—Mrs. L. B. Coss and daughter Nannie, were in with the crowd Saturday.

—Harry Holmes was up from Newton, Friday, to visit with the old folks.

—Mr. T. H. Learned late of Columbus, is now pharmacist at Lunblades.

—Geo. Valerius and Doc Gray were over from Hoisington Tuesday.

—Mrs. Arsula Jones, nee Benedict, is visiting in town, from Dodge City.

—Dr. G. L. Koch was over from our neighbor on the north, Friday afternoon.

—Miss Belle Brown, of Kinsley was calling on her friends in Great Bend Monday.

—E. G. Wyman and wife were down from the west side of the county, Tuesday.

—Prof. W. S. Hill came in from Arizona, Tuesday, to visit friends in Great Bend.

—Mr. Myers, who is temporary agent at the Mo. P. depot, has a young son dangerously ill.

—Stanley Patterson and Amos Carroll were over from Hoisington to the dance, Friday night.

—Mrs. J. C. Lytle and Miss Ella Turner were Hoisington ladies shopping in town Saturday.

—Ed Boissell, George Parker, O. C. Hock, of Hoisington, were cavorting on our streets Saturday.

—Ed. Bockemuhl, John Wolfe and Fred Wolfe were up from Ellinwood to Masonic meeting Friday.

—Mrs. D. O. Gray, Mrs. J. W. Clark, and Attorney Prose were Hoisington people in town Saturday.

—G. H. Hulme jumped off a fence the other day, and lighting on a stone sprained an ankle very badly.

—Viat Wagner, assistant P. M. at Ellinwood, was a caller on the DEMOCRAT Tuesday afternoon.

—J. A. Elvin, a mail clerk on the Mo. P. from Hoisington, was over to see Great Bend friends, Friday.

—Martin and Vencil Musil, and Chas. Willms were up from Ellinwood Friday afternoon on Masonic business.

—Mrs. Ira H. Clark and children, of Hoisington, have been visiting here with Miss Jessie Clark the past week.

—W. H. Zlatavara came up from Reno county, where he has been buying corn with Will Maher, the first of the week.

—Chas. Liebesky and Miss Kate Bosse, and Dan Willms and Miss Kate Wedge were Ellinwood young people up to see Si, Saturday.

—Walter Tallis has had enough of Cripple Creek. He is home with a different kind of fever from that which took him out there.